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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/805,908	03/22/2004	David Quijano	200313207.1	9683

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

BUI, HUNG S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2841

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/01/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/805,908

Applicant(s)

QUIJANO, DAVID

Examiner

Hung S. Bui

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,7,9-18,20-22,24 and 25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,7,9-18,20-22,24 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-13, 21-22 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gonsalves et al. [US 5,839,584] in view of Perez et al. [US 6,934,162].

Regarding claim 1, 4 and 10, Gonsalves et al. disclose a circuit board module (figure 1), comprising:

- a motherboard (11) including a plurality of memory sockets (figure 1) to install a plurality of memory, the motherboard having input/output connectors mounted adjacent a rear edge of the motherboard (figure 1); and
- an external connector panel (figure 1) that provides user access to connectors that is cooperated to the motherboard when the module is installed in a host computer, wherein the connector panel and the circuit board are connected so as to form a single (figure 1) and wherein the

connector panel includes connection elements/screws that are configured to directly connect the connector panel to a computer chassis (figure 1).

Gonsalves et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the circuit board including a processor.

Perez et al. disclose a motherboard including a processor (32) mounted thereon.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a processor in the circuit board of Gonsalves et al., as suggested by Perez et al., for the purpose of operating a system of the computer.

Regarding claims 3 and 11, Gonsalves et al. disclose the motherboard having at least one opening(s)/aperture(s) (14, figure 1) that is adapted to receive at least one fastener(s)(16).

Gonsalves et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the securing mechanism being used to secure the motherboard to a computer chassis.

Perez et al. disclose the motherboard having at least one openings (34) that are adapted to receive fasteners (48) that are used to secure the motherboard to a computer chassis.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use securing mechanism design of Perez et al. in Gonsalves et al., for the purpose of securing the motherboard within the computer chassis.

Regarding claim 5, Gonsalves et al., as modified, disclose wherein the connector panel comprising openings (figure 1) with which the connectors are aligned or extend through.

Regarding claims 7 and 12, Gonsalves et al., as modified, disclose wherein at least one connector is also attached to the connector panel so as to securely connect the connector panel to the motherboard (figure 1).

Regarding claims 9 and 13, Gonsalves et al., as modified, disclose the connection element (the connector panel having four connection elements along the edge thereof) including at least one tab (a bending portion at a right corner of the connector panel as shown in figure 1).

Gonsalves et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the tab being connected with a slot of the chassis.

Perez et al. disclose a connection element (42) include tabs (60) that is configured for receipt by slots (62) of a computer chassis (figures 1, 3 and 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the tab design of Perez et al. in Gonsalves et al., for the purpose of assembling the computer.

Regarding claims 21-22 and 24-25, the method step of manufacturing a computer would have been inherent in the product structure.

4. Claims 14-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gonsalves et al. [US 5,839,584] in view of Perez et al. [US 6,934,162] and Liu et al. [US 6,000,767].

Regarding claims 14-15, Gonsalves et al. disclose a circuit board module (figure 1), comprising:

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- a motherboard (11) including a plurality of memory sockets (figure 1) to install a plurality of memory, the motherboard having input/output connectors mounted adjacent a rear edge of the motherboard (figure 1); and
- an external connector panel (figure 1) that provides user access to connectors that is cooperated to the motherboard when the module is installed in a host computer, wherein the connector panel and the circuit board are connected so as to form a single (figure 1) and wherein the connector panel includes connection elements/screws that are configured to directly connect the connector panel to a computer chassis (figure 1).

Gonsalves et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the circuit board including a processor and the connector panel being integral to the motherboard and the computer chassis being enclosed in an outer housing.

Perez et al. disclose a motherboard including a processor (32) mounted thereon.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a processor in the circuit board of Gonsalves et al., as suggested by Perez et al., for the purpose of operating a system of the computer.

Liu et al. disclose a computer chassis (figure 2) being enclosed by an outer housing (16, figure 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enclose the computer chassis of Gonsalves et al., as modified, as suggested by Liu et al., for the purpose of providing electrostatic discharge, grounding capabilities and making a rigidity to the computer casing.

Regarding claim 16, Gonsalves et al. disclose the motherboard having at least one opening(s)/aperture(s) (14, figure 1) that is adapted to receive at least one fastener(s)(16).

Gonsalves et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the securing mechanism being used to secure the motherboard to a computer chassis.

Perez et al. disclose the motherboard having at least one openings (34) that are adapted to receive fasteners (48) that are used to secure the motherboard to a computer chassis.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use securing mechanism design of Perez et al. in Gonsalves et al., for the purpose of securing the motherboard within the computer chassis.

Regarding claims 17-18, Gonsalves et al., as modified, disclose wherein at least one connector is also attached to the connector panel so as to securely connect the connector panel to the motherboard (figure 1).

Regarding claim 20, Gonsalves et al., as modified, disclose the connection element (the connector panel having four connection elements along the edge thereof) including at least one tab (a bending portion at a right corner of the connector panel as shown in figure 1).

Gonsalves et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the tab being connected with a slot of the chassis.

Perez et al. disclose a connection element (42) include tabs (60) that is configured for receipt by slots (62) of a computer chassis (figures 1, 3 and 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the tab design of Perez et al. in Gonsalves et al., for the purpose of assembling the computer.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-18, 20-22 and 24-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung S. Bui whose telephone number is (571) 272-2102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean A Reichard can be reached on (571) 272-1984. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

1/18/07
Hung Bui
Art Unit 2841


Tuan Dinh
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